Listing of Claims:

This Listing of Claims replaces all the prior listings of claims.

1.   (Previously presented) A method for culturing primary hepatocytes comprising plating primary hepatocytes in the presence of an anti-oxidant(s) and a second agent, wherein said second agent is (1) a functional inhibitor of an enzyme that generates reactive oxygen and reactive nitrogen species, (2) an agent that directly inhibits the reactive oxygen or the reactive nitrogen species, or (3) an agent that increases intracellular glutathione and culturing said primary hepatocytes for at least five days, wherein said primary hepatocytes maintain function to metabolize xenobiotics or cytochrome P450 gene expression for at least five days.

2.   (Previously presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the anti-oxidant is tocopherol succinate or a hydroxyl radical scavenger.

3.   (Original) The method of claim 2, wherein the hydroxyl radical scavenger is mannitol.

4.   (Previously presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the second agent is a glutathione precursor or a nitric oxide inhibitor.

5.   (Previously presented) The method of claim 4, wherein the glutathione precursor is 2-oxothiazolidine-4-carboxylate.

6.   (Previously presented) The method of claim 4, wherein the second agent is the nitric oxide inhibitor and is N^G-methylarginine, wherein "G" is a guanidine moiety in a formula H_2N^G-C- $NHCH_2CH_2CH_2CH(NH_2)CO_2H$.

$\parallel$

NH_2

7.   (Previously presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the anti-oxidant is tocopherol succinate and the second agent is 2-oxothiazolidine-4-carboxylate.

8.   (Previously presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the anti-oxidant is mannitol and the second agent is N^G-methylarginine, wherein "G" is a guanidine moiety in a formula H_2N^G-C-$NHCH_2CH_2CH_2CH(NH_2)CO_2H$.

$\parallel$

NH_2

9-15   (Canceled)